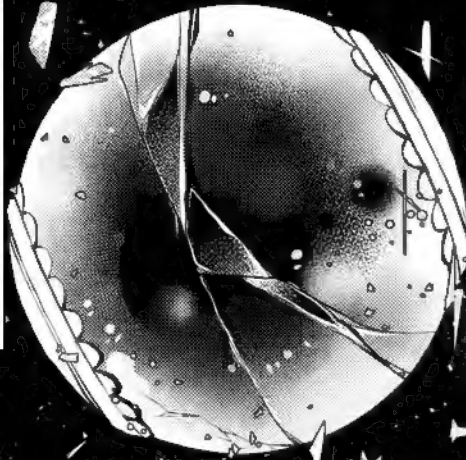


THANKS
TO IRIE,



IT FEELS
LIKE I'VE
COME TO
FULLY
UNDERSTAND
MANY THINGS
ABOUT THAT
FRAGMENT.



TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
THE SMATTERING OF
DETAILS THAT THEY
DO KNOW ABOUT
HINAMIZAWA'S PAST
TRAGEDIES, IT'S NOT
HARD TO IMAGINE
WHAT POLARIS
WOULD BE THINKING.



IT IS
THAT VERY
GIRL WHO PLAYS
A KEY ROLE
IN THAT
FRAGMENT.

THAT
POLARIS
GIRL...

THE GIRL
WHO WAS
HANGING AROUND
KEITAROU AND
HIS FRIENDS...

Higurashi no Naku Koro ni *Rei*
Irotoutoshi-hen

ORIGINAL WORK: RYUKISHIO7
MANGA: KEI NATSUMI

...IS PROBABLY
NOT SO DIFFERENT
FROM THE FRAGMENT'S
WHERE KEIICHI SHOWED
OUTBREAK SYMPTOMS,
INCITED BY THE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE SERIAL MURDERS
HE OBTAINED SHORTLY
AFTER MOVING HERE.

...HER
MENTALITY...





YOU GUYS
ARE KEEPING
SECRETS FROM
ME, AREN'T
YOU?

HE COULD
NO LONGER
ACCEPT THE
KINDNESS
OF HIS
FRIENDS.

KEIICHI
DEVELOPED
HINAMIZAWA
SYNDROME,
BECOMING
POSSESSED
BY EXTREME
PARANOIA...



...HAD A
SEWING
NEEDLE
INSIDE...

THE
OHAGI...



HOW
DO YOU
EVEN KNOW
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED
WHEN YOU
WEREN'T
EVEN
THERE?!



AND
TURNED
TO
VIOLENCE
IN THE
NAME OF
SELF-
DEFENSE.

EVENTUALLY,
HE CONVINCED
HIMSELF
THAT HIS
FRIENDS WERE
INVOLVED IN
THE SERIES OF
MYSTERIOUS
DEATHS...

...I
SHOULD
PISS OFF
AND DIE...



THEY'RE
TELLING
ME...



I'M
SORRY.

I'M
SORRY.



I'M
SORRY.

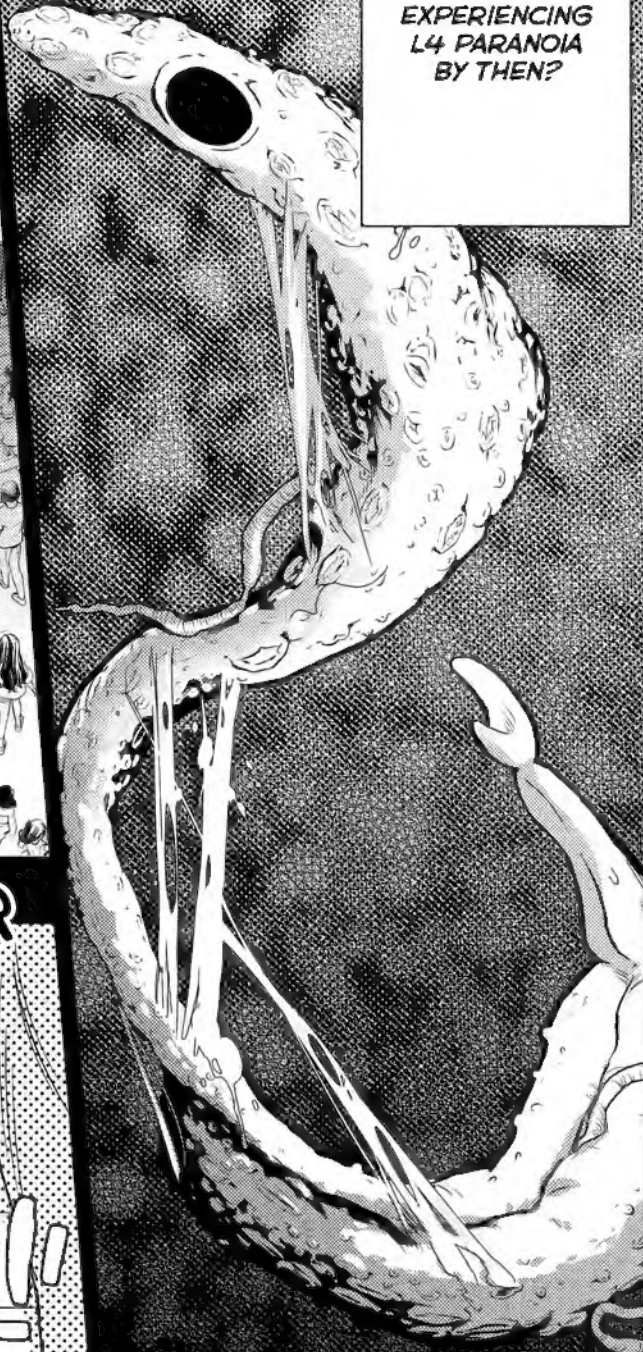


NO MATTER HOW
CHEERFUL THEY MAY
SEEM, IF EVERY
MEMBER OF POLARIS
HAS DEVELOPED L2-L3
HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME...

BUT THE
PEOPLE OF
POLARIS
SUPPRESS
THEIR EMOTIONS,
MAKING IT MUCH
HARDER TO
RECOGNIZE
ABNORMALITIES
ON A SURFACE
LEVEL...

KEIICHI
WEARS HIS
EMOTIONS
ON HIS SLEEVE,
SO HIS UNUSUAL
BEHAVIOR WAS
EASY TO SPOT.





SHE WAS
ALREADY
EXPERIENCING
L4 PARANOIA
BY THEN?

THAT GIRL
HAD SO MUCH
CONTACT WITH
KEITAROU
PEOPLE SAID
THEY WERE
"CLOSE."

SO THERE'S
NO WAY
SHE ONSET
SYMPTOMS
BY THE DAY
OF THE
WATANAGASHI
FESTIVAL...

BUT
WHAT
IF...

thump

I'LL HAVE TO
THOROUGHLY
CLEANSE
MYSELF WHEN
I GET HOME.

TOO
MANY
PEOPLE...

SO
NOISY...

thump

PLUS SOME
QUIET MUSIC
AND INCENSE
TO HELP
ME SLEEP...

IF NECESSARY,
I'LL HAVE THEM
USE THE HYPNOS
FLUTE AS WELL.

I CAN'T LET
THEM REALIZE
I'M WORKING
ON BEHALF
OF POLARIS.

THE
WATANA-
GASHI
FESTIVAL.

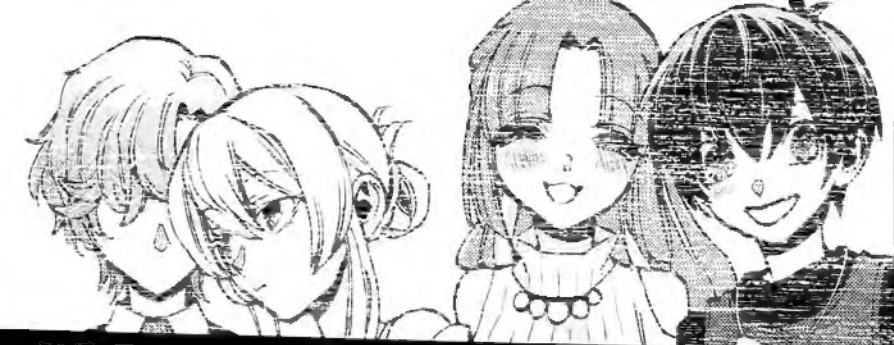
I COULD
SUFFER
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE IF
I'M EXPOSED.

WHATEVER
THESE
HINAMIZAWANS
ARE SCHEMING,
I'LL PROBABLY
BE ABLE TO
CATCH A GLIMPSE
OF IT HERE...

thump

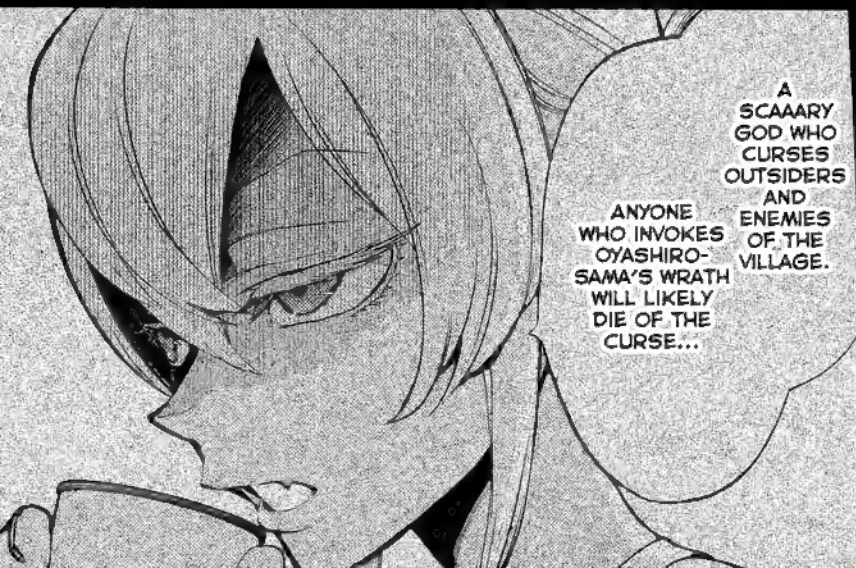
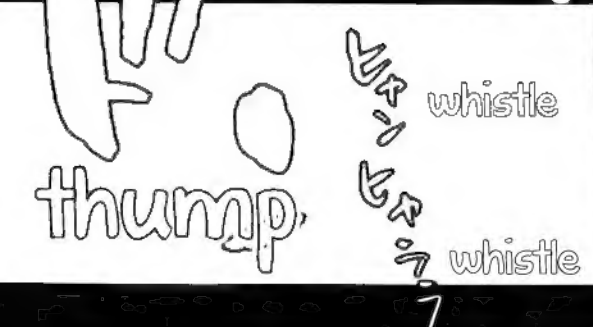
whistle

thump



I JUST HAVE TO PRETEND
I'M A NON-BELIEVER
AND A FRIEND OF
KEITAROU'S GANG,
AND I'LL BE FINE...

BUT
EVEN IF
I'M FOUND
OUT, IT'S
BUSINESS
AS USUAL.

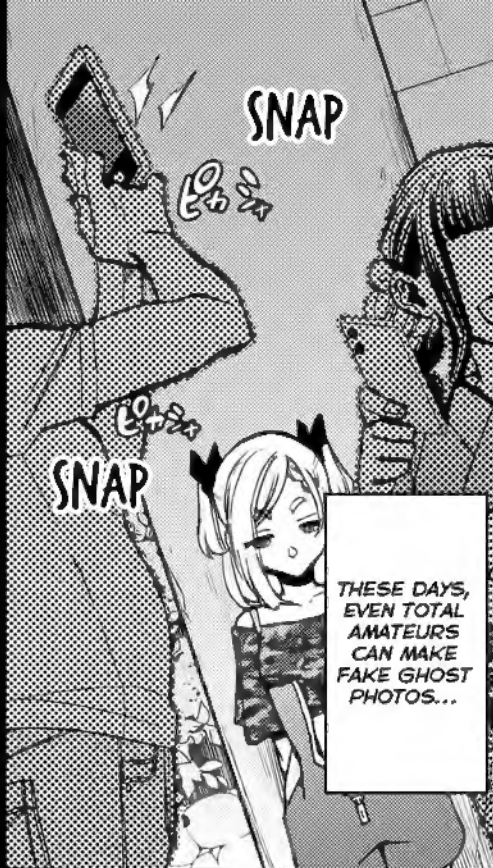


A
SCAAARY
GOD WHO
CURSES
OUTSIDERS
AND
ENEMIES
OF THE
VILLAGE.

ANYONE
WHO INVOKES
OYASHIRO-
SAMA'S WRATH
WILL LIKELY
DIE OF THE
CURSE...

IF I RECALL
CORRECTLY,
PER THE CURSE
OF THAT OYA-
SHIRO-SAMA
OR WHATEVER
GOD THEY
WORSHIP...

ONE PERSON
DIES AND ONES
GOES MISSING ON
THE NIGHT OF
THE FESTIVAL...



SNAP

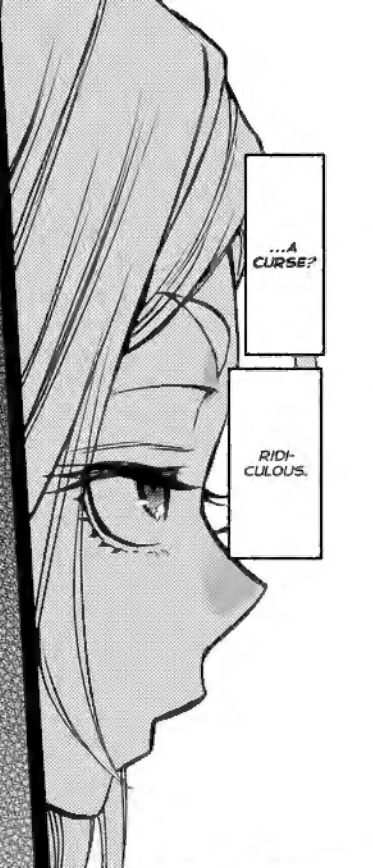
SNAP

THESE DAYS,
EVEN TOTAL
AMATEURS
CAN MAKE
FAKE GHOST
PHOTOS...



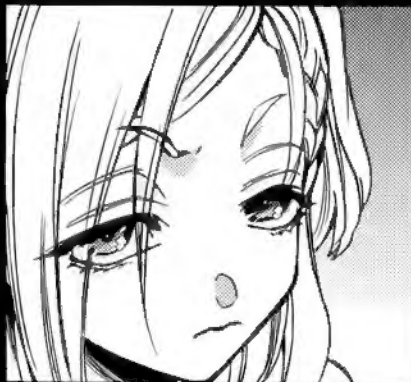
THE SHOWA
ERA ENDED
AGES AGO.
WE'RE IN AN
ERA WITH
A WHOLE
NEW NAME.

THERE'S NO
ROOM FOR
ANYTHING
OCCULT
IN THE
FACE OF
MODERN
SCIENCE...



...A
CURSE?

RIDI-
CULOUS.



thump

whistle

thump



YOU GET
STARED AT
JUST WALKING
DOWN THE ROAD.
PEOPLE WHO
DON'T EVEN
KNOW YOU WILL
CALL OUT TO YOU.

LIKE
THEY'RE
KEEPING
AN EYE
ON YOU.

EVEN THE
VILLAGERS'
WAY OF
THINKING
IS OLD-
FASHIONED
AND OUT
OF DATE.



LIKE A
RELIC OF A
BYGONE ERA.

...THEN
AGAIN,
THIS VILLAGE
IS PRETTY
REMOTE AND
WORN OUT.



AND
THE AIR
IN THE
VILLAGE,
TOO...

IT'S
DUSTY,

AND
MUSTY.



FIDGET...

...WHAT
THE HELL?

GRUESOME,
ANTIQUATED
CUSTOMS
STILL BEING
QUIETLY
CARRIED
OUT...

...IT'S
PROBABLY
POSSIBLE...

...IF IT'S A
VILLAGE LIKE
THAT...

thump

THEN IT'S
REALLY GONNA
HAPPEN TONIGHT...

IF
THAT'S
THE CASE,

whistle

SOMEBODY IS
GOING TO DIE...?



...ME?

IF I
SCREW
THIS UP,
COULD IT
BE...

THE WHOLE
VILLAGE WILL
ACT LIKE IT
NEVER
HAPPENED...?

AND
EVEN
IF I'M
KILLED,

thump...

thump...

MAYBE IT'S
ALREADY
TOO LATE...

...AND I'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO GO
BACK TO
POLARIS...?

THOSE PEOPLE
REALLY DO
POSSESS THE
BLOOD OF
MAN-EATING
DEMONS...

HYPOTHE-
TICALLY...

AND
IF...

THUNK...



Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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